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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, make us maximum by Your Spirit for the demanding responsibilities and relationships of this day. We say with the psalmist, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation!"—Psalm 68:19.

We praise You that it is Your will to give good things to those who ask You. You give strength and power to Your people when we seek You above anything else. You guide the humble and teach them Your way. You know what we need before we ask You, and yet, encourage us to seek, knock, and ask in our prayers. When we truly seek You and really desire Your will, You do guide us in what to ask. Our day is filled with challenges and decisions beyond our own knowledge and experience. We dare not press ahead on our own resources. In the quiet of this magnificent moment of conversation with You we commit this day and ask for the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You in advance for a great day lived for Your glory. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. This morning, the Senate will begin consideration of the budget conference report, and will continue the discussion. Under the consent

agreement reached yesterday, there will be 2 hours for debate on the conference report, with the time equally divided between Senators DOMENICI and EXON. All Senators should be aware that a vote will occur on the adoption of the budget at 12 noon today.

The House did act last night—it must have been close to 10 o'clock or so—but they did pass the budget resolution. We will have the papers, and we will be prepared to vote at 12 noon. Following that vote, there will be a period for morning business to accommodate a number of requests on both sides of the aisle. I emphasize that morning business will be after the 12 o'clock vote, not in the morning as we begin, as is quite often the case.

It is also possible later today the Senate will consider other legislative-executive items. Therefore, Senators should be aware that additional rollcall votes are possible during today's session. We are very hopeful that some agreement, perhaps, could be worked out on how we would handle the Federal Reserve Board appointees. We will have further information on that when we have the vote at 12 o'clock.

I yield the floor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, the Senate will now move to consideration of the conference report, House Report 104-612, accompanying House Concurrent Resolution 178, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment to the bill (H. Con. Res. 178), a concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1997 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of June 7, 1996.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the Senator from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, and the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. EXON.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on behalf of Mr. EXON, who controls the time on this side, I yield myself such time as I may consume. It will not be 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I am convinced that if this budget resolution conference agreement is fully implemented over the next 6 years, it will lead the Nation into far more serious fiscal difficulty than we are in today. It follows the familiar supply-side policies of the Reagan administration, which, as we all recall, promised to balance the Federal budget while at the same time enacting massive tax cuts, it calls for increases in defense spending even when the Pentagon says it does not need the money, and cuts in entitlements—which never came to pass under the Reagan administration. President Reagan's policies did not result in the economy growing itself out of deficits or in balancing the budget. I voted with the President, Mr. Reagan, in support of his massive tax cuts and I also supported his buildup of a bloated defense budget. Instead, what did we see? We saw a massive increase in the national debt, which rose from under \$1 trillion in the previous 200 years of the Nation to over \$2.6 trillion on January

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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